

and wherein

the outputting step outputs the decoded at least one of the audio channels based on the comparison.

43. The device of claim 38, wherein the decoding and separating step MPEG decodes the at least one of the audio channels.

44. The device of claim 23, wherein the signal processor includes a switch that outputs the data units corresponding to the selected audio signal.--

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 23-44 are pending.

The specification has been amended consistent with Fig. 4.

A Drawing Change Authorization Request has been submitted concurrently herewith to delete a spelling error in Fig. 8.

Claims 23-27 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended to eliminate the problems noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Claims 23-27 stand rejected under 35 USC 102b as being anticipated by Dalen. Applicants respectfully traverse these art grounds of rejection.

Dalen teaches a method and apparatus for selectively playing back a plurality of digitally encoded audio messages along with associated video data. Dalen does not disclose or suggest "receiving indicating information and first **units of digital audio data interleaved** at a predetermined interval **with** second **units of digital video data,**" (emphasis added) as recited in claim 31 and similarly recited in claims 23, 28 and 38. Nor can Dahlen, therefore, disclose or suggest the extracting and separating operations recited in claims 23 and 28.

Furthermore, Dalen does not disclose or suggest "**the digital audio data including more than one audio channel, and the indicating information indicating presence of the audio channels in the digital audio data, the audio signal processor extracting the indicating information, and decoding and separating at least one of the audio channels using the indicating information**" (emphasis added) as recited in claim 31 and similarly recited in claim 38.

Therefore claims 23, 28, 31 and 38 are not anticipated or rendered obvious to one skilled in the art by Dalen. Claims 24-27, 29-30, 32-37 and 39-43, dependent on claims 23, 28, 31 and 38, are patentable for the reasons stated above with respect to claims 23, 28, 31 and 38 as well as on their own merits.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the art grounds of rejection, and allow the subject application.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D.

Yacura (Reg. No. 35,416) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

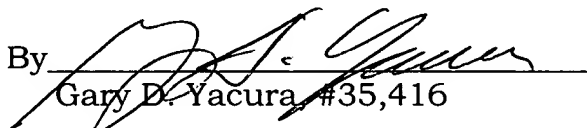
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$110.00 is attached.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


Gary D. Yacura, #35,416

GDY/jms:ewd
0465-0738P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000